

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I'm pleased today to present for your approval LR 418 which congratulates Boys Town on its seventy-fifth anniversary and which will declare December 12, 1992 as Boys Town Day in Nebraska. On December 12, 1917, Father Edward Flanagan first opened the doors of what has been transformed over time from a modest home in downtown Omaha to a virtual oasis of understanding and support for children throughout the United States. Boys Town provides direct services to over 15,000 children a year and serves a half million more on its National Hotline. The Boys Town National Institute, Father Flanagan High School, Boys Town USA and the Boys Town Home Campus Program are components of Boys Town, an internationally praised institution which has provided a multitude of services to children over the years. Please join me in congratulating Boys Town on its seventy-fifth anniversary. I encourage you and your constituents to visit the Boys Town Campus in the heart of the 4th Legislative District when you're in Omaha this year and see for yourselves what progress and promise such an institution holds for our state and the children of this nation. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Discussion on the resolution. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, ordinarily I don't speak on resolutions but Boys Town has a reputation which I don't think is entirely deserved. When they started out they had the statue of this little boy carrying another boy and saying, he ain't heavy, Father, he's my brother. Well, Boys Town has changed its approach now and that old slogan, there's no such thing as a bad boy, there's no such thing in general as Boys Town's taking a bad boy. Instead of gearing their programs to meet the needs of such children, such children must fit into the program or they are not accepted. So I'm not going to prolong the discussion on this resolution but I'm going to vote against it. Boys Town is a multimillion dollar operation. They are one of the best fund raisers in the world. They manage, from time to time, to put up a pitiful mouth as though they are about to go under. Not too long ago they were upset because they didn't think Omaha showed sufficient appreciation for Boys Town. So it is, in my way of thinking, an operation that makes tremendous amounts of money.